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# ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Condition

OF THE

Norham and Islandshires

Rural District

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1941.

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Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY CONDITION

OF THE

NORHAM AND ISLANDSHIRES RURAL DISTRICT

*For the Year ended 31st December, 1941.*

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MR CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1941.

## General Statistics.

Area—The area of the District is 47,011 acres.

Registrar General's estimate of resident population—4,567.

Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Books—1456.

Rateable Value—£18,004.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£79.

## Social Conditions.

These are not changed to any extent by war conditions. Coal mining at Scremerston is continued in full employment. The salmon fisheries are, in some instances, depleted of their crews, but are, in the majority, carrying on as usual. A fair number of summer visitors still found accommodation in the area.

### Extracts from Vital Statistics.

|                  |                | Total | Male | Female |                                           |
|------------------|----------------|-------|------|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| Live births      | { Legitimate   | 63    | 21   | 42     | } Birth rate per 1000<br>population—14.67 |
|                  | { Illegitimate | 4     | 2    | 2      |                                           |
| Still births ... | ...            | 3     | 0    | 3      | { Rate per 1000<br>births—42.8.           |
| Deaths ...       | ...            | 74    | 40   | 34     | { Rate per 1000<br>population—16.2        |

Deaths from puerperal sepsis—0

Deaths from other puerperal causes—0

Death rate of infants under one year—

All infants, per 1000 live births—59.5

Legitimate infants, per 1000 legitimate live births—59.5

Illegitimate infants, per 1000 illegitimate live births—0

Deaths from cancer (all ages)—4

„ Measles—0

„ Whooping Cough—1

„ Diarrhoea—0

Live births show a decrease of 7, and deaths an increase of 14 in the year.

Of the live births, there were exactly twice as many girls as boys.

### General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

Medical Officer of Health (part time)—

Herbert F. Park, M.B., CH.B., Norham.

Sanitary Inspector—

J. Romans Lake, East Ord.

Vaccination Officers—

Norham—H. F. Park, M.B., CH.B.

Islandshire—J. Elliott, L.R.C.S.E., Lowick.

*Laboratory facilities.*—County Laboratory, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

*Ambulance facilities*—By arrangement with Berwick Town Council, a modern ambulance is available for any purpose.

There is also an auxiliary ambulance stationed at Norham which is now licensed for ordinary use and road accidents.

*Nursing Services.*—The district is served by the nurses of the Northumberland County Nursing Association.

*Hospitals.*—There is no change in hospital accommodation.

Infectious cases are taken to the Berwick and District Isolation Hospital. The R.D.C.'s Smallpox Hospital has not been in use during the year.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

*Water.*—There has been no extension of water supplies during the year. The existing arrangements have been quite satisfactory.

*Drainage and Sewage.*—No alterations have taken place in these systems.

*Rivers and Streams.*—There is no gross pollution in this area.

### Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year :

|                                 |     |     | Total<br>Cases. | Admitted<br>to Hospital. | Total<br>Deaths |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Smallpox                        | ... | ... | ...             | ...                      | ...             |
| Scarlet Fever                   | ... | ... | 4               | 2                        | ...             |
| Diphtheria                      | ... | ... | 1               | ...                      | ...             |
| Enteric (including Paratyphoid) |     |     | 14              | 12                       | 1               |
| Puerperal Fever                 | ... | ... | ...             | ...                      | ...             |
| Puerperal Pyrexia               |     | ... | ...             | ...                      | ...             |
| Pneumonia                       | ... | ... | 1               | ...                      | ...             |
| Measles                         | ... | ... | 14              | ...                      | ...             |
| Erysipelas                      | ... | ... | ...             | ...                      | ...             |
| Whooping Cough                  | ..  |     | 20              | ...                      | 1               |
| Cerebro Spinal Fever            | ... |     | 2               | 2                        | ...             |

### Tuberculosis.

| Age    | NEW CASES. |     |          |     | DEATHS. |     |          |     |
|--------|------------|-----|----------|-----|---------|-----|----------|-----|
|        | Pul.       |     | Non-Pul. |     | Pul.    |     | Non-Pul. |     |
|        | M.         | F.  | M.       | F.  | M.      | F.  | M.       | F.  |
| 0      | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...     | ... | ...      | ... |
| 1      | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...     | ... | ...      | ... |
| 5      | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...     | ... | ...      | ... |
| 15     | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...     | ... | ...      | ... |
| 25     | 2          | ... | ...      | ... | ...     | ... | ...      | ... |
| 35     | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...     | ... | ...      | ... |
| 45     | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | 1       | ... | ...      | ... |
| 55     | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...     | ... | ...      | ... |
| 65     | ...        | ... | ...      | ... | ...     | ... | ...      | ... |
| Totals | 2          | ... | ...      | ... | 1       | ... | ...      | ... |

### Prevalence of Infectious Diseases.

On the whole, the incidence of infectious diseases was very slight, measles and whooping cough forming the bulk of the cases notified. The cases of measles this year were very few, 14, compared with last year's total of 109.

*Paratyphoid.*—This disease caused a little trouble throughout the year, and was the cause of one death. On the whole the disease was mild. Fortunately, the source was found early—a known carrier in the district—and precautions taken to prevent a recurrence.

*Immunisation of School Children against Diphtheria.*—This was carried out at all the schools in the area, the result being that approximately 96% of children of school age were immunised.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

*A. F. Park.*  
*W. A. H.*

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR,  
for the Year 1941.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1941.

Visits of inspection have been made throughout the District during the year. No statutory notices have been served. Informal notices have been issued and verbal instructions given to agents and responsible persons, and these notices and instructions have been well attended to.

*Conditions of Dwellinghouses.*—The defects in the older types of houses are dampness, insufficient light, want of ventilation, and the absence of proper food stores, and, in some cases, general dilapidations.

Owing to the war and the absorption of labour and the diversion of materials for national purposes, only a minimum of structural and repair work to property has been carried out during the year.

*Plans.*—Plans for the improvement of various properties have been submitted to and approved by the Council. These include the following:—

Sanitary arrangements at the Miners Welfare Institute.  
Scremerston.

Bathroom &c., at Twizel Fishery.

Addition to Tweedside Industrial Co-operative Store at  
Scremerston.

Cottage at Velvet Hall.

Agricultural Hostel at Norham for 50 Land Workers.

*Water Supplies.*—The water supplies in the district have been satisfactory during the year. There has been no actual scarcity, but in some parts of the district, where the military have been stationed in considerable numbers, moderate supplies have been somewhat

overtaxed. This was helped, however, by the use of tank wagons by the military. The supplies in the district are as follows:—

*Fenwick.*—This village is supplied by gravitation from a spring which rises in Kyloe Woods. This supply is owned by the local authority.

*East Ord.*—This is a gravitation water supply under the ownership of the local authority.

*Cornhill.*—The water supply to Cornhill village and the surroundings is pumped from a spring, and gravitates from a reservoir in a 2in. water main. The water is of good quality and ample quantity. This system is privately owned.

*Norham, Horncliffe, Thornton, and Shoreswood.*—This is a gravitation water supply, and during the year the supply has been well maintained, and is of good quality and ample quantity. It is owned by the local authority.

*The Mill Burn and Dam* — The water from which drives the water wheel at Norham Water Works, has been cleaned out this season.

*Rivers and Streams* — There are no public works in the area, and consequently no river pollution from these sources.

*Sewerage and Drainage.*—No main sewers have been laid during the year, but several drainage schemes in connection with alterations and improvements to property have been carried out.

*Schools.*—The Hampshire privy system is prevalent in nearly all the schools in the area. Water is laid on where gravitation supplies are available.

*Disinfection.*—All premises where infectious diseases occurred have been thoroughly disinfected, also all schools in the affected areas.

*Dairies and Cowsheds (Milk Supply).*—During the year dairies and cowsheds have been inspected. The cleanliness of these has been well observed, also flushing and whitewashing.

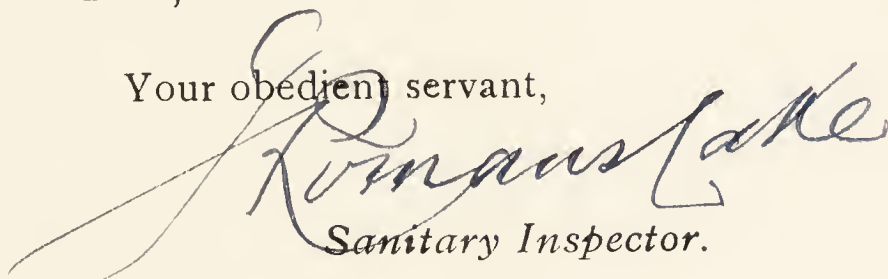
*Factories and Workshops.*—These number 34, and have all been well kept.

*Disinfestation.*—There was no occasion to disinfestate for the eradication of bed bugs.

*Slaughterhouses.*—The two slaughterhouses in the district are not now used as such. Meat supplies are sent from headquarters.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

  
Sanitary Inspector.

East Ord,  
Berwick-on-Tweed,  
July, 1942.



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